

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-10 and 23-29 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 12 and 13 were previously cancelled. Claim 22 is currently amended. Accordingly, claims 11, 14-22 are currently pending.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 11 and 14-21 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 28. By this Amendment, claim 22 has been amended to correspond to claim 28 written in independent form. Accordingly, claim 22 should now be allowable.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-9, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otani et al. (EP 0 880 010) and Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,9432,442). This rejection is now moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-9 and 23-34 and the amendment of claim 22.

Claims 4, 7, 10, 25, 27, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otani, Tanaka, and Binns et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,140). This rejection is also moot in view of the cancellation of claims 4, 7, 10, 25, 27, and 29.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date JUL 21 2005

By 

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